WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image input apparatus having a scanning surface used for scanning a document, the image input apparatus comprising:

an image reading section for reading an image of the document facing the scanning surface;

a position detection section for detecting a moving direction and a movement amount of the image input apparatus; and

a control section for controlling the image reading section and the position detection section so that detection is performed by the position detection section in synchronization with image reading performed by the image reading section.

2. An image input apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the scanning surface includes a line area extending in a main scanning direction, and a first reference point and a second reference point each located so as to have a predetermined positional relationship with respect to the line area,

the image reading section includes a line image sensor for reading the image of the document facing the

line area, and

the position detection section includes:

a first optical position detector for detecting a movement amount of the first reference point in the main scanning direction and a movement amount of the first reference point in a direction perpendicular to the main scanning direction, and

a second optical position detector for detecting a movement amount of the second reference point in the main scanning direction and a movement amount of the second reference point in a direction perpendicular to the main scanning direction.

3. An image input apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first reference point is located on a straight line extending in the main scanning direction from one of two ends of the line area, and the second reference point is located on a straight line extending in the main scanning direction from the other end of the line area.

4. An image input apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an image synthesis section for synthesizing a plurality of images read by the image reading section into one image based on a detection result obtained by

the position detection section.

5. An image input apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the image synthesis section calculates a post-movement coordinate value based on a pre-movement coordinate value and the detection result obtained by the position detection section.

6. An image input apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the image reading section reads a plurality of images for one coordinate value, and the image synthesis section performs image synthesis based on the latest image read among the plurality of images read for the one coordinate value.

7. An image input apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a determination section for determining whether or not there is an unread area of the document; and

a notification section for notifying a user of the image input apparatus of the determination result obtained by the determination section.

8. A computer readable recording medium storing a program

for causing a computer to execute image synthesis processing, wherein:

the computer is constructed to be connectable to an image input apparatus having a scanning surface used for scanning a document;

the image input apparatus includes:

an image reading section for reading an image of the document facing the scanning surface,

a position detection section for detecting a moving direction and a movement amount of the image input apparatus, and

a control section for controlling the image reading section and the position detection section so that detection is performed by the position detection section in synchronization with image reading performed by the image reading section; and

the image synthesis processing includes the step of synthesizing a plurality of images read by the image reading section into one image based on a detection result obtained by the position detection section.

9. An image synthesis method for performing image synthesis using an image input apparatus having a scanning surface used for scanning a document, the image synthesis

method comprising the steps of:

reading an image of the document facing the scanning surface;

detecting a moving direction and a movement amount of the image input apparatus;

detecting the moving direction and the movement amount of the image input apparatus in synchronization with image reading performed by the image reading section; and

synthesizing a plurality of images read by the image reading section into one image based on a detection result obtained by the position detection section.